

First Sunday after Christmas Day

10:00 AM + December 28, 2025

Morning Prayer: Rite Two

Prelude: Voluntary on “The First Nowell” arr. John Barr
Opening Hymn: “Good Christian friends, rejoice” Blue Hymnal 107
Opening Sentences

Officiant Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.

Revelation 21:3

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us praise and worship God who has called us together. Let us celebrate God’s majesty, and delight in the wonder of God’s love. Together we shall confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read, we can allow God’s word to speak to us, and ponder its meaning for our lives.

In our prayers, we give thanks for God’s goodness, we pray for others as well as for ourselves, and we offer our lives anew in Christ’s service.

All this we do, because we believe in the presence among us of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

(from A New Zealand Prayer Book)

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may

delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.
Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant Alleluia. To us a child is born:

People Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Jubilate

Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 147:13-21

Based on *Antioch* - Thomas Pavlechko



13 Worship the **Lord**, O **Jerusalem**; *
 praise your God, O **Zion**;
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your **gates**; *
 he has blessed your children **within you**.
15 He has established peace on your **borders**; *
 he satisfies you with the finest **wheat**.
16 He sends out his command to the **earth**, *
 and his word runs very **swiftly**.

Response: Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

17 He gives snow like **wool**; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like **ashes**.
18 He scatters his hail like **bread crumbs**; *
 who can stand against his **cold**?
19 He sends forth his word and **melts them**; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters **flow**.
20 He declares his word to **Jacob**, *
 his statutes and his judgments to **Israel**.
 (repeat second half of chant)
21 He has not done so to any other **nation**; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

Response: Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

The Lessons

A Reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Canticle: A Song to the Lamb *Dignus es* *Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel according to John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Homily

Amy B. Hunter

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements:

Offertory Anthem: Saw You Never in the Twilight

Words: C.F. Alexander, Music: *Chartres*, arr. Mark Schweizer

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Litanist and People pray responsively, kneeling as able

Litanist Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People And grant us your salvation.
Litanist Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People Let your people sing with joy.
Litanist Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People For only in you can we live in safety.
Litanist Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Litanist Let your way be known upon earth;
People Your saving health among all nations.
Litanist Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Litanist Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *A Collect for Sundays*

A Collect for Sundays

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* *A Collect for Mission*

A Collect for Mission

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn: "Go tell it on the mountain"

Blue Hymnal 99

The Dismissal

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in
the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Ephesians 3:20, 21

People: Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude: Voluntary in A Major

Henry Heron

Welcome! You are invited to participate fully in our worship. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome! Please contact the church office (aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org) if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin.

<https://www.all saints chelmsford.org>

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